

I. A faith to add to

1. Not the false faith of a heretic
 - A. Who is a heretic?
 - B. His faith is false
2. Not the feigned faith of a hypocrite.
 - A. Who is a hypocrite?
 - B. What is his judgment?
 - C. How faith can be feigned.
3. Not the fruitless faith of the mere formal professor. (see v.8)
 - A. Difference between professors & possessors
 - B. Importance of searching your soul.
 - C. Faith that is fruitless is dead.
4. But the true faith of a Christian.
 - A. Who is a Christian?
 - (1). One who acknowledges his sin and need of a Savior.
 - (2). One who repents of his sin.
 - (3). One who has sincere faith in Christ.
 - (a). Believes that Christ is the Son of God, died for our sins, rose again.
 - (b). A heart belief.
 - (c). Active faith that definitely accepts Christ as personal Savior and publicly confesses Him.

II. Yet however real and sincere this faith is, it can still be supplemented. Peter's language could be translated "supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge."

1. Our salvation is complete. The atoning work of Christ is complete. We cannot add anything to that.
2. But after we are saved there are many graces of the Christian life that can be added.

III Notice that God's way of adding to our faith is by subtraction.

1. If you add virtue you must subtract all forms of moral or spiritual weakness.
2. If you add knowledge you must subtract ignorance.

- 3.If you add self-control you must subtract passionate and carnal excesses.
- 4.If you add patience you must subtract impatience.
- 5.If you add godliness you must subtract ungodliness.
- 6.If you add brotherly kindness you must subtract hatred and discourtesy.
- 7.If you add love you must subtract all ill-will. Both Peter and Paul make love the climaxing characteristic of the genuine Christian.

IV.The RESULTS of this Divine Addition.

- 1.Fruitfulness, v. 8.
- 2.Vision, v. 9.
- 3.Christlikeness, Eph. 4:13.

"More like the Master I would live and grow;
More of His love to others I would show;
More self-denial, like His in Galilee,
More like the Master I long to ever be."

*Joseph Parker once said: "When, as a Christian Church we cultivate a spirit of mutual trustfulness; when each esteems others better than himself; when the strong delight to recover and support the weak; when the wise are patient and gentle towards those of fewer attainments; when we are careful of each other's reputation and gentle towards one another's infirmities; when we are pitiful, long-suffering, condescending, unsuspecting, and self-sacrificing, then will men remember that it is written, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another" (John 13:34 ASV)."